

1      **ABSTRACT**

2      Prior to searching a multidimensional feature space populated with data  
3      objects, each dimension in the feature space is divided into a number of intervals.  
4      When a query is received, a single interval that is overlapped by the query is  
5      selected from each dimension. A reduced set of data objects is then selected that  
6      includes only those data objects that overlap the selected intervals. This reduced  
7      set of data objects, rather than the entire set of data objects in the feature space, is  
8      then used to determine matches for the query.

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